

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3339
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
BUILDING OF SUBMARINES
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had finalised the Project 75 in 1997-1998 for building 20 submarines at a cost of Rs. 15,000 crores with German Technology from German Design Group of HDW at Kiel has been shelved;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, the reasons for entering into an agreement to purchase 6 Scorpene Class submarines for Rs. 12,500 crores from French Consortium, Thomson when this class of submarine is neither cost effective nor fulfils the military effectiveness;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that this French Consortium Thomson even sold and is now building submarines in Pakistan; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3339
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The original proposal to build submarines based on the design of the German company, HDW, as modified to suit Indian Naval requirements but validated by a foreign vendor which had access to the original design data, was shelved mainly due to non-availability of the required weapon system which was to be acquired from a French company. The French submarine meets the technical and operational requirements of the Indian Navy and has the advantage of fitment of the required weapon system. The choice of the French vendor was strictly on the basis of its assessed technical competence in transferring the build technology and the commercial offer that it has made. The French consortium, being a vendor to Pakistan also, is not a relevant factor.